

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ANKARA 07922 181454Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 IO-13 EB-07 OMB-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 /088 W

----- 110887

R 181225Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5168

INFO AMEMBASSY THENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION NATO

EUCOM GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 7922

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: RUMORS OF EARLY ELECTIONS

1.DURING RECENT WEEKS THERE HAS BEEN A RESURGENCE IN TURKEY OF THE PERIDOICALLY POPULAR RUMOR THAT EARLY GENERAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD. MOST OF THESE RUMORS SUGGEST THAT PRIMIN DEMIREL IS PLANNING TO CALL ELECTIONS IN MAY OR JUNE INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL THE SCHEDULED DATE OF OCTOBER, 1977.

2. DEMIREL'S INTEREST IN EARLY ELECTIONS IS PREDICTED ON TWO CONSIDERATIONS: (1) IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN SPRING OF 1977 WILL BE MORE BENEFICIAL TO DEMIREL THAN IT MIGHT BE LATER AND (2) DEMIREL'S PATIENCE WITH HIS COALITION PARTNERS HAS BEEN EXHAUSTED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ANKARA 07922 181454Z

3. THE ARGUMENT THAT THE ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE SPRING

WILL BENEFIT DEMIREL AND HIS PARTY IS BASED ON THE EXPECTATION THAT THE PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION CAN BE MAINTAINED BY THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AT LEAST UNTIL SPRING, AFTER WHICH THE GROWING DANGERS OF INFLATION AND FOREIGN RESERVE OUTFLOWS WOULD MAKE HIS RECORD LESS ATTRACTIVE.

4. THE VIEW THAT DEMIREL IS FED UP WITH TRYING TO HOLD HIS COALITION TOGETHER IS SUPPORTED BY INCREASING PUBLIC EVIDENCE OF STRAINS BETWEEN THE JUSTICE PARTY (JP) AND THE MAJOR COALITION PARTY, THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NASP), LED BY NECMETTIN ERBAKAN. ERBAKAN'S RESISTANCE TO JP COALITION LEADERSHIP IS ALMOST LEGENDARY AND UNDOUBTEDLY IS A CAUSE OF FRUSTRATION FOR DEMIREL AND HIS COLLEAGUES. BEYOND THAT, ERBAKAN'S UNCOOPERATIVE PERFORMANCE HAS MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FUNCTION PRODUCTIVELY IN MANY AREAS. ERBAKAN HAS DELIBERATELY HELD UP APPOINTMENTS AND DECREES WHICH HE HAS DISAGREED. TO DATE HE HAS MANAGED TO GET AWAY WITH SUCH BEHAVIOR BECAUSE DEMIREL DID NOT WANT TO RISK DESTRUCTION OF THE COALITION, BUT NOW, THE RUMORS SUGGEST DEMIREL'S PATIENCE IS EXHAUSTED.

5. A DECISION TO HOLD EARLY ELECTIONS WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE DEMIREL'S JP OCCUPIES ONLY 164 OF THE 450 SEATS. THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE JP COULD EXPECT ANY SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT FROM ITS COALITION PARTNERS IN PUSHING FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, AND IN FACT, WILL MOST LIKELY ENCOUNTER THEIR OPPOSITION. THE NSP AND ITS CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN, WHICH RELY HEAVILY ON THE APPEAL OF THEIR RELIGIOUS FUNDAMENTALISM, WOULD PROBABLY PREFER TO SEE THE ELECTIONS IN OCTOBER, SHORTLY AFTER THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMAZAN. ERBAKAN'S MUCH PUBLICIZED NEW INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS CAMPAIGN ALSO REQUIRES ADDITIONAL TIME SO THAT THE MANY PROJECTS HE HAS DEDICATED BECOME MORE VISIBLE. (WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A SENIOR NSP OFFICIAL, HOWEVER, THAT THE PARTY WOULD AGREE TO EARLY ELECTIONS IF THE REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPPP) NATIONAL CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER SHOULD RESULT IN A SPLIT IN THIS MAJOR OPPOSITION PARTY.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ANKARA 07922 181454Z

6. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO SMALLER COALITION PARTIES COULD BE PERSUADED TO VOTE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, ALTHOUGH AT THIS POINT, THERE SEEMS TO BE NO INCENTIVE FOR THEM TO DO SO. SINCE A GOOD PORTION OF THE 14 INDEPENDENT DEPUTIES THAT NOW SUPPORT THE COALITION, AS WELL AS THE 18 DEPUTIES OF THE FADING DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DP), WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LOSE THEIR SEATS IN A NEW ELECTION, IT

IS NOT LOGICAL TO EXPECT THEM TO SUPPORT EARLY ELECTIONS. THEREFORE, IN ORDER FOR EARLY ELECTIONS TO BE HELD, DEMIREL WOULD PROBABLY NEED TO SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION RPP. WHILE AS RECENTLY AS THE BEGINNING OF THIS YEAR THE RPP WAS ACTIVELY SEEKING EARLY ELECTIONS, IT HAS ABANDONED THAT TACTIC AND, IN VIEW OF THE PARTY'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS, THERE IS LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT TI WOULD RETURN TO IT SOON. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY MORE THAN ONE RPP DEPUTY THAT THEY WILL NOT SUPPORT A CALL FOR EARLY ELECTIONS UNDER PRESENTLY FORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. ALSO ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT TOLD HIS PARTY ASSEMBLY OCTOBER 17 THAT THE TIME FOR EARLY ELECTIONS HAS PASSED.

7. COMMENT: THE SUBUECT OF EARLY ELECTIONS IS A RECURRENT THEME OF POLITICAL RUMORS IN TURKEY. HOWEVER, ONLY ONCE DURING THE LAST 25 YEARS HAVE EARLY ELECTIONS BEEN HELD (1957). RPP LEADER ECEVIT TRIED VERY HARD IN LATE 1974 TO ARRANGE FOR EARLY ELECTIONS AND DESPITE HIS EXTRAORDINARY POPULARITY IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE CYPRUS INTERVENTION AND DESPITE HIS PARTY'S CONTROL OF 26 MORE SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THAN THE JP NOW CONTROLS, HE WAS UNABLE TO DO SO. THEREFORE, WHILE THE POSSIBILITY OF ELECTIONS IN THE SPRING OF 1977 CANNOT BE ENTIRELY DISCOUNTED, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A MORE LIKELY DATE IS THE PRESENTLY SCHEDULED TIME OF OCTOBER 1977. MACOMBER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA07922
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760390-0777
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761043/aaaabktp.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <25 AUG 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RUMORS OF EARLY ELECTIONS
TAGS: PINT, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006